

REMARKS

Applicants confirm the election of method Claims 1-30 without traverse. Claims 31 – 55 have been cancelled without prejudice.

Amended Claim 1 includes the steps of introducing the object into a coanda flow forming passage by passing the object through an opening into the passage, the coanda flow forming passage including an interior and a wall surrounding the interior, the wall having a coanda profile; directing a first fluid, onto the coanda profile to induce coanda flow through the passage, and withdrawing the object through the opening. These steps carry through to Claims 2 – 15.

The cited references fail to disclose or fairly suggest the claimed combination of steps. For example, in the Swain patent, the snowflakes enter the chamber from one opening and exit the chamber from a separate opening. It would not be obvious to modify the Swain patent to withdraw the snowflakes through the opening through which they enter the chamber, since the Swain method is intended to accelerate the snowflakes out of the chamber onto a substrate to be cleaned.

The Horii reference likewise fails to disclose or fairly suggest the recited combination of steps. In particular, the reference describes a method for applying a surface coating to a powdered material. In each embodiment, the powdered material is introduced through a supply port and is discharged through a discharge outlet. As with the Swain reference, there is no fair suggestion for modifying Horii to discharge the powder from the supply port. Accordingly, Claims 1 – 15 are patentable over Swain and Horii.

Claim 16 as amended recites the steps of passing an object through an opening into the chamber and positioning the object within the coanda chamber; and withdrawing the object from the coanda chamber and through the opening. This recitation carries through to dependent Claims 17 – 30. Thus, for the reasons set forth in connection with Claims 1 – 15, Claims 16-30 are patentable over the Swain and Horii references.

Respectfully submitted,

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